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Patent

TRACE IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): David M. PEPPER, et al. Statement

Serial No.: 10/809,237 Serial No.: 10/809,

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

NOV 1 2 2004

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. Copies of the foreign patent documents and the non-patent publications listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are enclosed herewith for the Examiner's convenience. Copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are not enclosed, pursuant to Deputy Commissioner Stephen G. Kunin's Pre OG Notice dated July 11, 2003, with the exception of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/966,698 because it has not yet been published.

It should be noted that the above-identified application may be related by subject matter to the following U.S. Application(s): 10/966,698, filed October 14, 2004. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a) and M.P.E.P. 2004, paragraph 9, the applicant brings these copending applications to the attention of the Examiner. The Examiner should consider this information during the prosecution of the above-identified application. However, citation of these applications does not constitute an admission that the claims of

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the present application are substantially similar or similar to those of the applications listed above.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), if the Examiner believes that such a fee is due in order for this IDS to be considered on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

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The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450",

on November 8, 2004 by Shana Morda.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Popa Attorney for Applicant Reg. No. 43,010

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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)

Copy of Non-U.S. Patent documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified), with the exception of U.S. Patent

Application No. 10/966,698.

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Information Disclosure Stateme NOV 1 2 2004

Form PTO-1449 (Modified)	<b>ATTY DOCKET NO.</b> B-4856 620360-6	<b>U.S. SERIAL NO.</b> 10/809,237		
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANTS David M. PEPPER, et al.			
	FILING DATE March 24, 2004	GROUP not yet assigned		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	10/966,698		Pepper et al.			10/14/2004
	5,092,336	3/1992	Fink	128	660.03	
	6,490,469 B2	12/2002	Candy	600	407	
	6,657,732 B2	12/2003	Pepper et al.	356	502	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

 DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.